

YOUR FOREST YOUR ADVENTURE

Fall 2008 • VOL 3 • NO 4



Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY
40118

502/368-5404

www.memorialforest.com
www.metro-parks.org
forest@louisvilleky.gov
parks@louisvilleky.gov

Welcome Center

Mon-Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center
is your destination
for maps, gift items,
program reservations,
camping reservations,
permits and
Forest information.

Directions

From I-65 south, take the
Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265)
west and exit at New Cut Road.
Turn left, go about one mile,
and turn right onto
Mitchell Hill Road.
Follow the signs to the Forest.

Mission Statement

The mission of
Louisville Metro Parks
is to create
a City of Parks
and enhance the
quality of life for
citizens of Louisville Metro
by maintaining and acquiring
attractive, vibrant parks
and offering safe, diverse
recreation programs, and
protecting these lands
and resources for
future generations.

CITY OF PARKS INITIATIVES IN SOUTHWEST LOUISVILLE

Mayor Jerry Abramson's initiative to make Louisville a "City of Parks" is creating excitement all across the community. Nowhere is this more true than southwest Louisville. Numerous projects are underway that promise to significantly improve and expand outdoor recreational opportunities for Louisvillians. These include two major projects that are benefitting Metro Parks natural areas in the Fairdale and Valley Station areas, enhancing the reputation of south Louisville as a prime destination for outdoor recreation and nature discovery.

One of these projects -- the master plan for the Jefferson Memorial Forest -- is entering its final phase. Draft concept plans for the main use areas of the Forest (both existing and proposed) have been developed based upon invaluable input from the public via stakeholder and public meetings over the past six months. If you have not had the opportunity to give your input in to this process we encourage you do so now as the process is nearing completion. This is your opportunity to help determine the

future of this largest park within the Metro system. The final public meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2008, at 6 p.m. in the Fairdale High School cafeteria, 1001 Fairdale Road. As always, you may review the public documents that have been generated as part of this process at our website: www.memorialforest.com.

Another exciting City of Parks project is the implementation of the first phases of the Waverly Park master plan. Construction of this \$435,000 project, announced earlier this year, is underway and scheduled to be substantially completed in November of this year. For those not familiar with Waverly Park, it is a 300-acre park situated between Iroquois Park and the Jefferson Memorial Forest, and long known as a peaceful and secluded place to fish, picnic and hike. Over the past few years it has also developed into one of the premier mountain biking destinations in Louisville. With the improvements currently underway, Waverly

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Jefferson Memorial Forest

Concept Diagram





Continued from page 1

Park will retain this character, but with significant upgrades to its amenities and trail system.

Improvements include:

- An accessible path around the fishing lake with four stone-lined fishing nooks along the shoreline.
- Two new shelters, including one with an attached floating fishing dock.
- Expanded parking and picnic facilities.
- Habitat improvements, including deepening the lake, creating fish cover, and creating wetland areas to support increased diversity of riparian plant and animal species.
- Reconstruction of the soft-surface trails in the park to address erosion issues and provide additional length to the marked trail system.

In addition, although Waverly Park does receive channel catfish annually from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Metro Parks is applying to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for Waverly Lake to be included in the list of lakes stocked multiple times annually as part of their FINS (Fishing in Neighborhoods) program. Future planned projects at the park that are not currently funded included a new restroom facility and improvements to the entry road.



Metro Parks wishes to thank the Metro Council, especially District 13 Councilwoman Vicki Welch and District 25 Councilman Doug Hawkins, as well as Councilpersons Rick Blackwell, Kelly Downard, Madonna Flood, Bob Henderson and Dan Johnson – from council districts 12, 16, 24, 14, and 21 respectively – who contributed to funding for the Forest Plan. Metro Parks thanks all of them for their support of these projects which will be so beneficial to the citizens of the community.

**ELIMINATE WASTE AND GET
THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!**

Do your part to save trees and keep our costs down, by emailing forest@louisvilleky.gov with the request “subscribe to newsletter.” Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you will then only receive electronic copies of future newsletters.



NATURAL AREAS NEWS

ILLEGAL DUMPER CITED

In June 2008, a local resident reported illegal dumping of debris, including rotting fruit and vegetables, at multiple locations along Jefferson Hill Road. Investigation by Metro Parks and Metro Solid Waste personnel identified the transgressor and a citation was issued. In July, the owner of Outer Loop Produce paid a total of \$731 to Louisville Metro to cover the cost of cleanup and associated fines.



Existing regulations require that every owner of a residence or commercial establishment provide for weekly disposal of solid waste generated at their address. The generator of the waste can be cited even if they have paid someone else to dispose of the waste and that person has dumped on public property. In essence, every landowner is responsible for ensuring that their waste is disposed of properly.

The Jefferson Memorial Forest has in the past been a place where some among us have felt free to spoil these wooded hills with their waste. We are here to say that the Forest is not a dumping ground and those who choose to violate the law and good standards of conduct will be cited wherever possible!

We thank all those citizens who take the time to report incidences of illegal dumping and other encroachments on the Forest and other public lands.

RESTORATION OF SHANNON'S POND

Over the past few years, one of the main locations for aquatic ecology programs

at the forest has steadily lost its ability to support aquatic life. Shannon's Pond, a small ¼ acre pond conveniently located in the Horine Section of the Forest near the Environmental Education Center, has lost water each of the last few years. This is because of the ill-suited nature of the existing soils to retain water, compounded by recent droughts that have left it dry for most of the year.

Natural Areas land management and maintenance staff are currently working together to seal the pond using a geotextile fabric that is embedded with bentonite clay. This fabric will be overlain with a sufficient depth of soil necessary to secure the fabric permanently and support aquatic vegetation. The result will be an even better environment for our aquatic ecology programs that benefit thousands of students and children who participate in programs at the Forest each year!

This fall, the pond will be reshaped to create a pond that is less of a "fishing hole" and more of a wetland environment that will support a greater diversity of aquatic life.

Next spring, wetland-friendly vegetation will be planted in order to return the pond to its intended function as a wonderful environmental education resource.



Shannon's Pond

Vote for
Jefferson
Memorial
Forest

Save the Trails
Online Contest

WE NEED YOUR VOTE

Metro Parks is proud to announce that an application we submitted for a \$5,000 grant from the American Hiking Society and Nature Valley Granola Bars was selected as one of the top 20 proposals in the country. Via voting on Nature Valley's website throughout the month of October, the public will decide the top ten projects that will be funded. Our project provides tools and supplies necessary to support a minimum of ten volunteer project days whereby 2.5 miles of new hiking trail will be constructed. Equally important, the project will help us expand out current volunteer trail construction and maintenance program within the Natural Areas Region. **WE NEED YOUR VOTE!** Please go to www.memorialforest.com before October 31 to learn how to vote for the Forest's project!



Caperton Swamp

CAPERTON SWAMP UPDATE

Bird watchers of Louisville have a paradise in Caperton Swamp. The premier birding spot, located on River Road near Cox Park, has an impressive record of sightings, with 190

different species being noted in the 27-acre wooded natural area. This high diversity of birds, paired with its convenient location and easily accessible trails, makes Caperton Swamp a prime birding location in the state. Unfortunately, exotic invasive species have overtaken the park, grape vines have engulfed the tree canopy, and the once ecologically diverse pond has all but dried up. These adverse changes to the natural area have greatly reduced viable habitat for native bird species, as well as numerous other native flora and fauna that inhabit the swamp.

As part of Metro Parks Natural

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Areas Division's efforts to improve Caperton Swamp, Landscape Supervisor Carl Suk is soliciting input from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Division of Forestry to develop a new forest management plan, addressing the many concerns facing the swamp. Carl and his crew are working to implement the forest plan, which calls for removing invasive plants, reducing grape vine cover, releasing more desirable trees, and restoring the valuable urban wetland that once thrived here.

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST/NATURAL AREAS TRAIL UPDATE

As a result of the wind storm on September 14, 2008, the fourteen trails within the natural areas region were impacted. Early reports from volunteers and staff identified over 150 trees to be removed.

The majority of our trails are currently open, thanks to efforts by volunteers and staff. Trails that are passable but are still in need of work include the Siltstone, Purple Heart, Lake Loop (Tom Wallace), and Scotts Gap (Long Loop). Trail users can expect to find some logs, small limbs, twigs, and leaves on the trail tread and should exercise caution.

Thanks to everyone for providing trail condition reports and providing assistance to open our trails in a safe and efficient manner. Please contact Larry Hilton, Trails Management Naturalist at (502) 797-5768 if you have questions, want to report trail issues or assist with trail clearing.



Trees downed in the wind storm

VOLUNTEER NEWS



Rangers proved to be the winners at the egg race, but were not as graceful as the Program Naturalists in the hula hoop contest.

Volunteer Superlatives made for a great way to end the day, with Chris Knopf receiving the award for most hours contributed by a Program Naturalist – 133.45 service hours to date! Chris' dedication to the program has truly been an inspiration for all.

Other volunteers exceeding

100 service hours included Stan Bridges, Tony Bright, Tony Cissell, Dick Dennis, David and Jean Garwarecki, Ed Kirk, Otto Mock, Tina Newcomb, and Dudley Saunders. Danny Witt received the award for "Most Enthusiastic Canoeer" for his passionate spirit in the pursuit of canoeing.

Jefferson Memorial Forest is very fortunate to have not only amazing volunteers, but a community that appreciates the efforts of those volunteers. Fairdale Dairy Queen graciously sponsored the food for the event, with a menu including BBQ sandwiches, hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, and coleslaw. Donated door prizes included items such as box seating at Churchill Downs and free dinner at Texas Roadhouse. Total monetary value of the donated prizes was over \$1,500! From all of us at Jefferson Memorial Forest, thank you Louisville for supporting your volunteers!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Hula hops, water balloons, and Dairy Queen – it must be the Jefferson Memorial Forest's annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

This year was a great year to celebrate the wonderful hometown helpers we have here at the Forest, with perfect weather and an amazing turnout. The Forest is honored to have such dedicated, generous volunteers who transform the Forest daily in their tireless efforts, doing everything from guiding hikes and maintaining our gardens to building trails and patrolling for litter. So far, volunteers have given over 3,500 hours of service in 2008. That's roughly \$45,000 worth of service.

So, as a small token of our endless appreciation for these individuals, Jefferson Memorial Forest hosted its second annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on August 16 at the Horine Environmental Education Field. Volunteers and their guests were treated to a day of food, games and prizes.

Administrative Assistant Sherry Wright brought her famous water balloon volleyball game, with winners receiving donated prizes. Those who didn't win received towels. Trail





NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We are excited to announce yet another volunteer pursuit with the addition of the Land Steward Program led by Landscape Supervisor Carl Suk. Volunteers who join this invigorating program can look forward to an engaging and hands-on learning experience about plants and their critical role in the environment. Carl Suk, a member of the American Holly Society and an active horticulturist for over 40 years, will train volunteers in the areas of plant identification, invasive and non-native as well as native plants, growth patterns, proper removal and planting techniques, and countless other vegetative areas. Land Stewards, upon completion of training, can become involved through monitoring, land management, or leading crews. Those interested in joining this program should be at least 14 years old (21 to become a crew leader), be willing to become certified in CPR/First Aid, have a strong interest in botany and horticulture, have time to commit to the program, and enjoy the outdoors. Further training will be specific to the volunteer requirements. For further information, please contact Katheryn Lynn, the Volunteer Coordinator, at (502) 380-1753 or e-mail at katheryn.lynn@louisvilleky.gov.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: ED KIRK

Need a running partner? Fairdale's own Ed Kirk is the man to call! Ed is a member of our Trail Rangers program and is an essential part of our volunteer program, having dedicated 183 service hours to date. Ed has boundless energy and enthusiasm to run, patrol, and work our trails. Using hand tools, he has cleared briars, weeds, limbs and brush from over 15 miles of trail here at the Forest this summer. Employing his personal and extensive knowledge of trails and their function for trail runners, Ed goes the extra mile to create trails that provide users with the best experience possible. It's incredible to watch his service hours increase each month; just this past August, Ed logged an incredible 50.65 hours in the field! The Forest is constantly reminded of how indebted we are to not only Ed Kirk, but to all the volunteers who commit so much of themselves for the betterment of

TRAIL RANGER PROJECT DAYS

Saturday, November 8

Saturday, December 13

Meet at the Forest Welcome Center dressed appropriate for the weather, ready to patrol/document/work trails, starting at 9 a.m.

TRAIL RANGER OUTINGS/EVENTS

Saturday, October 25

Saturday, November 22

Weather and group interest will dictate.

For information on these opportunities and to join our Trail Ranger Patrol or Trail Construction Crew, please contact Larry Hilton, Trails Management Naturalist, at (502) 797-5768 (cell) or (502) 361-0119 (office).

the community. Help us in giving a huge thank you to Ed Kirk, the Trail Rangers, and all the volunteers who make Jefferson Memorial Forest the amazing place that it is!

SUMMER VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION:	20 volunteers 382.8 hours
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PROGRAM NATURALISTS:	25 volunteers 708.73 hours
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SCOUTS:	19 scouts 335 hours
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LAND MANAGERS:	2 volunteers 29.25 hours
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SUMMER MONTHS TOTAL:	66 volunteers 463.78 hours
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VOLUNTEER CALENDAR

KENTUCKY MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION FALL 2008 VOLUNTEER CALENDAR

KYMBA CREW AND VOLUNTEERS AT WAVERLY PARK

We'll meet near the lake starting at 9 a.m. to reroute new and restore old trails. Gloves, water, tools and energy bars provided. Wear sturdy shoes and dress appropriate for the weather. This is a great opportunity to tap into awesome group energy while improving trails.

Saturday, 22 November

Saturday, 20 December

For information or to join our Trail Crew Team, contact Larry Hilton, Naturalist, at (502) 797-5768.



*Mike Dulin and
Patrick Bucayu
installing trail bridge*



PUBLIC PROGRAM CALENDAR: OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER

We offer a wide array of programs for all ages. For more information visit our website or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help you make reservations, give you directions to the program location, or provide you a complete schedule of our programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes, and dress for the weather.

Reservations and payment are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel programs with insufficient registration. Refunds will be provided.

FOREST FAMILY FUN CAMP-OUT

**Friday, October 24-25,
6 p.m. Friday-8:30 a.m. Saturday**

Would you like to go on a family camping trip without all the packing and preparation? Let Metro Parks do everything for you and provide an evening of activities and entertainment. We provide your family with tents, dinner and breakfast, and take you on a night hike full of facts and fun. We'll even provide a S'more bedtime treat. All you need to bring is your toothbrush, a pillow, good walking shoes, and weather appropriate clothes. This program is for ages 7 to adult. To participate in the program you must be pre-registered by Monday, October 20. Fee: \$20 per person.

OUTDOOR SKILLS

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All programs meet in the Horine Reservation. Cost is \$5 per person unless otherwise noted. Times, location, and fees are subject to change depending on the program.

PRIMITIVE SKILLS

Saturday, November 1

Learn to start a fire with flint and steel, the bow drill, and the hand drill, and build a shelter to protect you from the elements. Practice these and other ancient skills in this program that will bring you a step closer to the past and the land. Great activity for parents and kids ages 10 and up. Meet at the Horine Parking Lot. Fee: \$5 per person

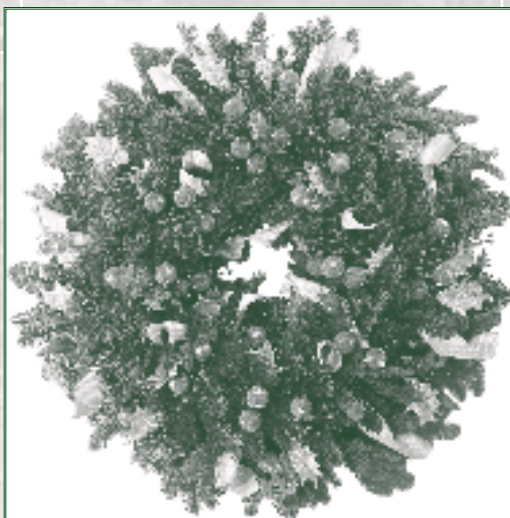
NATIVE GARDENING

Fee: \$5 per person

WINTER WREATHS

Saturday, December 1, 9 a.m. to Noon

Presented by Metro Parks Naturalist Christa Weidner. Bring your garden gloves and create a beautiful wreath to display for the holidays. We will have materials already gathered such as winterberry, cedar, pinecones and more. Enjoy a short hike and look for unique additions to add to your wreath. When you return, you can warm up in front of the fireplace with a cup of hot apple cider. Meet in the Horine Conference Center.



EVENING PROGRAMS

Programs meet in the Horine Reservation, 7-9:30 p.m. Fee: \$5 per person

STORIES OF THE NIGHT SKY

Friday, November 14

Join Metro Parks staff as they share some of the stories and myths that the Native Americans and other cultures told to explain the constellations that we see today. Families are welcome. A delicious

S'more treat will be provided around a campfire.

PRE-SCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURES

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

This program is for parents and children ages 3-5. This program provides experiences in nature for parents and little ones to share, including story-time with crafts and snacks. Meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee \$8 per person

WINGS AND THINGS

Saturday, November 8

Tuesday, November 11

Grab some binoculars and your hiking boots and explore the Forest looking for birds. Watch them feed and listen to them sing, then make a bird feeder full of seed to attract birds to your own backyard!

WHERE DID THEY ALL GO?

Tuesday, December 9

Saturday, December 13

The Forest is quieter now. What's that you say? You don't hear as many animals today? Well, where did they go? Let's learn about where hibernating animals like bears go.

HOWL AT THE MOON

Friday, November 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog! Metro Parks staff will lead owners and their pooches on a hike through the woods. Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. As a courtesy to other dogs, please make sure your pet is up to date on their vaccinations. Meet in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$5 per dog



MORE KIDS IN THE WOODS UPDATE

NEW PROGRAM: FOREST EXPLORERS, THREE-PART SERIES

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Forest is offering an exciting new program series, Forest Explorers! Children ages 5 and 6 can experience the life of a naturalist by discovering the wonders of the forest through field studies, crafts and more. Snacks are provided. Each child can make their own nature journal to use throughout the series. Parents are encouraged to attend and share their child's nature adventure. Meet in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee: \$10 per child per program. For those who wish to pre-register for all three in the series, the cost is \$24. Forest Explorers will meet the third Saturday of October through December.

FALL INTO THE FOREST

October 18

Fall is a beautiful time of year to enjoy vibrant colors and cool breezes. However, for animals this is a busy, busy time to fatten up, collect food, or to find a suitable winter home. Discover the fascinating lifestyles of these Forest animals.

WINGS OVER KENTUCKY

November 15

What is the largest bird of Kentucky? What is the state bird? These questions and many more are answered in this program that not only introduces students to the birds native to their state, but also explains how birds fly, and the adaptations that help different birds survive and thrive in Kentucky.

TO HIBERNATE OR NOT TO HIBERNATE?

December 20

Several animals brave the cold every year. However, there are many that go unseen until spring. Where do they go? What do they eat? Work together with our naturalists to solve the mystery of what animals do in the winter.

As was mentioned in last quarter's newsletter, Metro Parks was one of 16 recipients of a U.S. Forest Service "More Kids in the Woods" grant to provide children with meaningful experiences in nature. Working with our project partners -- including the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Service and the Olmsted Parks Conservancy - the Jefferson Memorial Forest's staff is creating wonderful semester-long outdoor experiences for students at three elementary schools in the Shawnee and Portland neighborhoods, including an overnight camping experience at the Forest and a trip to the Red River Gorge geologic area. To date, students have participated in field trips to Shawnee Park and Portland Wharf Park, and are gearing up for service learning projects at these two parks in November. Here's what participating fourth grade students and their teachers had to say after their first More Kids in the Woods experience at Shawnee Park:



STUDENTS

Chantasia: I feel great about going to "More Kids in the Woods" because the way I felt at Shawnee Park was awesome. I like the way we looked through the binoculars to see how the Ohio River changes colors. When I did that I felt like I was a naturalist. I am really looking forward to going camping.

Rakwon: We had an awesome time at Shawnee Park because Ms. Cheryl taught us about soil. Since we had a good time at Shawnee Park, I know we will have a terrific time at Jefferson Memorial Forest.

Elijah: I feel really excited about "More Kids in the Woods" because we get to learn about nature instead of playing video games all day. We get to go on fun field trips and will be having a blast learning about nature. I am looking forward to going camping at Jefferson Memorial Forest.

Connie: I liked when the high school students at Fairdale (Kevin & Dustin) showed us about maps and taught us how to make maps. Now I know how to make a map. I can't wait to go to the Red River Gorge. I love "More Kids in the Woods" because we can learn more about the natural world.

TEACHERS

Melissa Hanschu: "More Kids in the Woods" is a great opportunity for our students. It is great to see our kids excited about nature and to see them develop an appreciation for nature.

Cabrina Bosco: We are so thankful Metro Parks pursued the "More Kids in the Woods" grant so that our students can explore nature and learn about the environment. The program they have designed extends and enhances the core content science they study at school.

Jefferson Memorial Forest

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